

* Doings of Other Societies. *

QUEBEC FRUIT GROWERS.

ANNUAL WINTER MEETING OF THE SOCIETY AT LACHUTE.

THE fifth annual winter meeting of the Pomological and Fruit Growing Society of the province of Quebec was held in Lachute, recently. Mr. R. Brodie, president of the Society, occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance of those interested in the development of horticulture in the province.

The president, in his annual address, said that the past year was one of almost famine in fruit production, following a year of plenty. The plum crop in Kamouraska and L'Islet had been a failure, and in the Montreal district a great many apple trees were killed outright. He urged that the Quebec Government should follow the example of the Ontario Government, and employ experts to instruct the farmers how to spray and care for their trees in general. He praised the energy of Mr. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, in making the shipping of fruit in cold storage a success. Now Quebec fruit growers could place choice autumn and early winter apples in good condition on the English market, which was not possible without cold storage.

Mr. Auguste Dupuis, the well-known horticulturist, of L'Islet, read an instructive paper on the effects of the winter of 1896 and 1897 on the orchards of the eastern portion of the province of Quebec. He made the regrettable statement that in this district one-third of the apple trees and three-fourths of the plum trees had been killed last winter. Some of the latter were brought from France by the earliest settlers of the province

of Quebec and had perpetuated themselves since but were now almost eradicated. Mr. Dechene, provincial secretary of agriculture, had promised to give three thousand plum trees to the fruit growers in the district, and the Dominion Minister of Agriculture had promised to assist. Mr. Dupuis thought it possible that they might be able to secure from France some of the old varieties of plums, which had proven so profitable below Quebec.

Mr. Percy H. Selwyn, Ottawa, and Mr. Gilbert Wintle, two experts in agriculture, read interesting papers on bees and bee-keeping. During the discussion which these papers called forth, a motion was passed in favor of legislation similar to that now existing in Ontario to protect bee men from the danger involved in spraying fruit trees during bloom—a practice which is destructive to bee life, and injurious to the fruit trees themselves.

An interesting address was given by Dr. Fletcher, botanist and entomologist of the Experimental Farms, on insects injurious to fruits in 1897. The speaker dwelt on the importance of proper spraying as the only means of preventing the depredations of insects on fruits and fruit trees. He agreed with the resolution of the society that trees should not be sprayed in bloom as it injured the honey bees. He dilated on the advantages of cold storage for fruit, and predicted great profit from it to fruit growers and farmers.

Dr. Fletcher produced a specimen of San Jose scale and reminded the meet-